

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 03276 241247Z

44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EUR-25 NIC-01 RSR-01 /141 W

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R 240011Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4996

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3276

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: PIR BECOMES SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSD)

1. FIRST AND LAST NATIONAL CONVENTION OF OPPOSITION RADICAL LEFT PARTY (PIR) HELD SANTIAGO JULY 20-22 VOTED TO CHANGE PARTY'S NAME TO CHILEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PARTIDO DE LA SOCIAL DEMOCRACIA CHILENA) AND TO ADOPT SOCIAL DEMOCRACY OFFICIALLY AS PARTY'S PHILOSOPHY. SEN. LUIS BOSSAY, HEAD OF PIR, ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NEW PARTY. ALL OTHER PARTY OFFICERS CHOSEN FROM PIR RANKS: VICE PRESIDENTS ARE PARTY THEORETICIAN RENE ABELIUK, FORMER MINJUSTICE MANUEL SANHUEZA, AND FORMER PARTY SECGEN AND 1973 DEPUTY CANDIDATE ARTURO VENEGAS. NEW SECGEN IS FORMER DEPUTY ALBERTO NAUDON.

2. OPENING CEREMONY ATTENDED BY PRESIDENTS OR ACTING PRESIDENTS OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC), DEMOCRATIC RADICALS (PDR), AND PADENA, BUT NOT NATIONAL PARTY. KEYNOTE SPEAKER BOSSAY BLASTED MARXISM-LENINISM AND ALLENDE GOVT, CLAIMED BEST ELEMENTS OF RADICALISM--ITS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PHILOSOPHY AND ITS "UNCONTAMINATED" RANK AND FILE MEMBERSHIP--HAD BEEN RETAINED, AND APPEALED TO OTHER LIKE-MINDED PERSONS AND GROUPS TO JOIN NEW PARTY. BOSSAY ADDED NEW PARTY WILL MAINTAIN ITS ALLIANCE WITH PDC/PDR/PADENA. ACTING PDR PRES. RAUL MORENO EFFUSIVELY PRAISED PIR INITIATIVE AND PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT.

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 03276 241247Z

3. COMMENT. MOVE TO FORM SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OUT OF
RUINS OF RADICALISM HAS BEEN AFOOT FOR SOME TIME (CF SANTIAGO
A-80). PIR SOURCES TELL US GOAL IS TO CONSTRUCT A "NEW" PARTY
NOT IDENTIFIED WITH RADICALISMO WHICH OFFERS IDEOLOGICAL POSI-
TION CAPABLE OF ATTRACTING SOME PRESENT UP SUPPORTERS -- SUCH
AS PR (CEN) RANK-AND-FILE, API, OLD-LINE SOCIALISTS -- AND
CONSOLIDATING SUCH FORCES ALREADY IN OPPOSITION CAMP AS PDR,
PADENA, INDEPENDENTS, AND SOME GREMIALISTAS. REMAINS TO BE
SEEN IF REVAMPED PIR CAN MEET THESE AMBITIOUS OBJECTIVES.
DAVIS

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